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ABSTRACT

The contents of this report present an initial attempt to assess the statewide direction toward implementation of selected fees. A questionnaire was developed by a Los Angeles Community College District ad hoc committee examining fee status and sent to all California community colleges. Eighty-eight (89%) of the colleges responded to the survey questionnaire. The findings indicate a tendency toward implementation of only certain types of fees. During the 1973-74 school year, student body membership fees will be required by 81 (92%) of the responding campuses. Health fees which are levied for health services, will be collected by 47 (53%) of the campuses. Adult fees will be required by 42 (48%) of the campuses. Parking fees will be imposed by 29 (33%) of the campuses, and community services' fees (for community events and classes) by 26 (30%). Physical education class fees will be required by 5 (6%) of the campuses. Fees ranged from an average-per-semester charge of $1.75 for physical education classes conducted in non-district facilities, to $8.00 for student body membership. (Author)

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LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES FEES SURVEY
RESEARCH REPORT 73-05

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November, 1973

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November 30, 1973

Dear Colleague:

In July of this year, the Los Angeles Community College District conducted a survey concerning community college fees. You will find attached a summary of the results of this survey.

The Los Angeles Community College District would like to thank you for your cooperation in helping us gather information on this subject.

Sincerely,

John T. McCuen
Vice Chancellor
Educational Planning and Development

ABSTRACT

The contents of this report present an initial attempt to assess the statewide direction toward implementation of selected fees. A questionnaire was developed by a Los Angeles Community College District ad hoc committee examining fee status and sent to all California community colleges. Eighty-eight (89%) of the colleges responded to the survey questionnaire. The findings indicate a tendency toward implementation of only certain types of fees. During the 1973-74 school year student body membership fees will be required by 81 (92%) of the responding campuses. Health fees, which are levied for health services, will be collected by 47 (53%) of the campuses. Adult fees will be required by 42 (48%) of the campuses. Parking fees will be imposed by 29 (33%) of the campuses, and community services' fees (for community events and classes) by 26 (30%). Physical education class fees will be required by 5 (6%) of the campuses. Fees ranged from an average-per-semester charge of $1.75 for physical education classes conducted in non-district facilities, to $8.00 for student body membership.

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES FEES SURVEY

I. PURPOSE. The endeavor of this survey was to ascertain Statewide status and trends in the implementation of educational fees among the California community colleges. More specifically, the intent was to gather data to determine fees currently levied on students, fees intended for the future, and attitudes of community colleges toward levying fees.

II. BACKGROUND. In order to obtain sufficient information as to whether to levy certain fees, data pertinent to the impact of levying fees on students and in education is necessary. An ad hoc committee, formed at the Los Angeles Community College District with the charge of inquiring into the desirability and impact of educational fees, approached this inquiry using three criteria: legal authorization, impact on enrollment, and impact on student finance.

A. Legal Authorization:

For legal considerations the committee consulted appropriate sections in the California State Constitution, the California Administrative Code, the California Education Code, and the Los Angeles County Counsel's rulings.

1. California State Constitution, Article 5, Section 9.

Common School System

"The legislature shall provide for a system of common schools by which a free school shall be kept up and supported in each district at least six months in every year after the first year in which a school has been established."

2. California Administrative Code, Section 350, Title 5.

   Fees Not Permitted

   "A pupil enrolled in a school shall not be required to pay any fee, deposit or other charge not specifically authorized by law."

3. California Education Code.

   Authorization exists for a community college district to charge the following fees:

   a. Health Services fee (Ed. Code 25425).

   b. Parking Services fee (Ed. Code 25425.1).

   c. Physical Education classes in leased non-district facilities (AB 2362).

   d. Program Change fee (Ed. Code 25427.5).

   e. Incidental fee for Classes for Adults (Ed. Code 5758).

   f. Tuition for Classes for Adults (Ed. Code 5757).

4. Los Angeles County Counsel's opinions.

   a. A fee may be required only if specifically authorized by law.

   b. The inability to pay a required fee may not prevent a student's pursuit of a desired academic course.

   c. If a service is provided by a district, no charge may be made by the governing board.

B. Impact on Enrollment.

There is little information to draw upon for predicting the possible impact on enrollment of imposing a fee. The single example is the charging of a fee for adult classes in the Los Angeles Community College District initiated in 1970-71. While there probably were

other factors, it seems reasonable to assume that the imposition of the fee was related to an 8.2% decrease in evening classes average daily attendance.

C. Impact on Student Body Finance.

Serious consideration should be given to the possible effect on student body membership. Even under the existing conditions, it is anticipated that student body membership may decline at some colleges in Fall, 1973. If student body income is seriously reduced, this could produce the demand to consider district funding for some programs now being supported by student body funds.

III. METHODOLOGY. Of several means available to the ad hoc committee, a survey questionnaire was the vehicle selected. In July, 1973 questionnaires (See Exhibit A) were mailed to ninety-eight California community colleges; eighty-eight replies were received for an (89%) response rate. The questionnaires were processed by manual means using clerical assistance. Provision was made for "Other Comments" on the survey instrument. Among the other comments written in by the respondents were the following:

1. A mandatory fee should be charged all Defined Adults, exceptions or reductions being made for those in financial need.
2. Students seem to have more "staying power" when they invest in a class or program.

IV. FINDINGS. The results of the eighty-seven replies follow:

Table 1 represents a tally of colleges currently collecting fees Summer, 1973, colleges planning to add or drop fees during 1973-74, and the estimate (accounting for the add/drops) of colleges imposing fees, 1973-74.

Table 1

FEE STATUS

Fee	Colleges Imposing Fees Summer, 1973 N=88			Colleges Planning To Add/Drop Fees 1973-74		Estimate of Colleges Imposing Fees 1973-74 N=88	
	Number	%Total[1]	Average Charge[2]	Number Adding	Dropping	Number	%Total[1]
Parking	22	25	7.00	8	1	29	33
Health Services	40	45	3.00	7	-	47	53
Physical Education	5	6	1.75	-	-	5	6
Adult Classes	52	59	5.00	1	11	42	48
Community Services[3]	25	28	7.50	2	1	26	30
Student Body Membership	83	94	8.00	-	2	81	92

[1]All percentages are based upon N=88.

[2]The average charge is listed per semester.

[3]For classes only; average charge for events was approximately $2.00.

These data indicate that there is a strong tendency toward implementation of student body membership fees (92% will require this fee during 1973-74). In addition, about half of the responding campuses (53%) impose health fees. This is followed by fees for adult classes (48%), parking (33%), community services (30%) and physical education (6%).

More specifically during the 1973-74 school year:

A. Student body membership fees will be required by all but seven of the campuses. Two of the campuses responding indicated they were planning to drop this fee.

B. Health fees ranged from $.50 per semester for evening students to (7.50 for all students per semester, the average charge being $3.00 per semester. Health fees were imposed for health services. Seven colleges were planning to add health fees during the year.

C. Physical education fees were the least imposed statewide. With the passage in August 1973 of AB 2362 (fee for use of non-district facilities for physical education), it was anticipated that more campuses would initiate this fee. However, only five campuses will require this fee during 1973-74.

D. Adult fees varied according to the class and the number of hours a student was enrolled. Fees ranged from $2.00 to $13.00 and were levied by unit, class, or semester. With the passage of SB 6 and the elimination of the permissive adult tax override, 11 campuses (8 in the Los Angeles Community College District) plan to drop the adult fee.

E. Parking fees ranged from $.05 per day to $20.00 per year with the average-per-semester charge being $7.00. Eight of the campuses polled plan to add this fee during 1973-74.

F. Twenty-six (30%) of the campuses responding imposed or planned to impose community service fees. Fees ranged from $2.00 to $20.00 depending upon the class or activity offered, with the average fee being $7.50 per class, and $2.00 per college event.

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EXHIBIT A

Leslie Koltai, Chancellor

July 16, 1973

The Los Angeles Community College District is presently considering implementing certain District fees. To aid us in our research, we are requesting that you submit your responses to the following questionnaire at your earliest convenience.

	Do You Presently Have Fee?	If So, How Much?	Is Fee Mandatory For All Students?	Does Fee Provide For Services Otherwise Not Available?	Are You Planning Fee In Future?
Parking					
Health					
Physical Education					
Adult Class Fees					
Community Services					
Student Body Membership					

Do you charge any fees not mentioned above?

If so, for what and how much?

Additional comments in regards to financial and/or philosophical implications would be helpful as well. Thank you for your assistance.